

Save Our Macleay River Inc.

Committee and members represent a broad range of people and experience concerned with water quality of our catchment.

We endeavour to achieve clean and safe water quality to protect and enhance our economic & recreational activities, health and environment of the Macleay.



Gravel extraction - Turners Flat.



Canoeing & swimming



Environment

Ongoing Activities & Events

- ▶ Monitoring progress of the Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro project (near Georges Junction) DA & EIS; through updated details, Planning assessment and Ministerial 'Determination'.
- ▶ Monitoring ARC's massive water supply, use and management proposals in the New England - largely for polluting Intensive Horticulture.
- ▶ Liaising with Larvotto & Dept. Planning re Hillgrove Mine's Modification 5 to their DA - posing massive intensification of antimony and gold production.
- ▶ Monitoring and liaising with Government agencies re: impacts of Gravel extraction activities; Historic mine run-off; Wetland rehabilitations and logging in the Macleay.
- ▶ Monitoring several Mining Exploration and Mining Licence activities in the catchment.
- ▶ Conducting field Water Testing; highlighting water quality issues with relevant authorities.
- ▶ Presenting the concept of Legal Rights of the River to the community for consideration.
- ▶ Participating in lobbying for legislative changes to enable easier rehabilitation of wetlands.
- ▶ Informing the community of River health concerns on SOMR's website, mail-outs and social media.



We invite you to become a member by contacting the Secretary or visit our website and 'get involved'

Save Our Macleay River Inc.

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SAVE OUR
MACLEAY RIVER

Old Garibaldi Mine Head,
Hillgrove Mine

If you drink the water,
fish, canoe, swim or water
your stock from our River
and streams...

... we invite you to be
informed and involved.

Who are SOMR? and what do we do?

Save Our Macleay River Inc. is a Community-based organisation, established to raise awareness of and endeavour to...

Work towards clean water throughout the Macleay River Catchment.

Many of our community rely on the Macleay River as a water supply or for recreation - including you?

SOMR was established in 2013 out of community concern about a proposal to transfer antimony, arsenic and other heavy metal tailings from Urunga to Hillgrove for reprocessing, in the upper Macleay catchment.

This proposal was thankfully shelved, in part through SOMR and community lobbying. The group has since focused on broader issues of contamination from mining and other past and present land uses, their impacts on the economic, health and recreational lives of communities down-stream.

In pursuing this focus SOMR has forged links with many Government, research, legislative and industry bodies; and become a voice of the community to achieve clean water in our Macleay River.

Please support us.



Save Our Macleay River Inc. Committee and members represent a broad mix of people, with a broad range of expertise, concerned about the water and quality in our Macleay River catchment.

The Macleay River catchment is: 11,450 square kilometres, an area between north of Guyra, south of Walcha and South West Rocks and covered by four Local Government Areas. The River is one of the fastest flowing in NSW, over 300 km length from the source near Armidale to the mouth at South West Rocks.

The upper catchment on the tablelands is mainly sheep grazing. Mid-catchment are deep gorges with forest and some grazing further down. The lower catchment is mostly agricultural, flood plain, tidal estuary and towns.

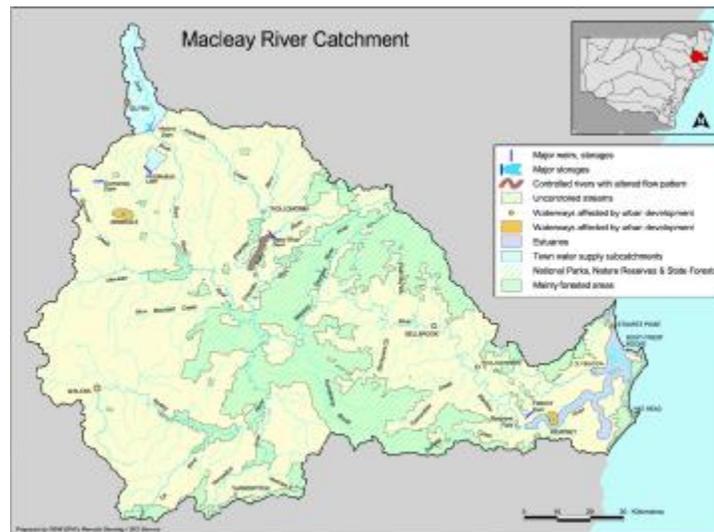


Image: NSW EPA's Remote Sensing / GIS Service.

What has SOMR done?

In the last 18 months, SOMR has:

- ▶ Monitored and sought impact minimisation of Armidale LGA's water supply strategy and their promotion of Intensive Horticulture; which significantly impact those downstream.
- ▶ Monitored and liaised re Larvotto's Hillgrove Mine DA Modification 5; which proposes doubling of production, reopens old mines and waste rock adjacent Bakers Creek. Input to appropriate operations and management are essential to reduce and avoid pollution.
- ▶ Closely monitored and submitted re the Oven Mountain Pumped Hydro Storage proposal, lodged & exhibited in 2023. It awaits details for the Planning Minister's Determination.
- ▶ Liaised with NRAR and Kempsey SC re likely river-course changing impacts of breaches of Controlled Activity Guidelines and Approvals of gravel extraction works at Turners Flat.
- ▶ Contributed to the Water Sharing Plans and promoted water quality for more holistic water management in NSW.
- ▶ Developed and distributed information on the 'safer use of water' to those downstream from the old Mungay Creek antimony mine.
- ▶ Coordinated with scientists and government bodies; UNE, SCU and held a Forum in August to relay contamination & health issues of our river to community.
- ▶ Explored the 'Rights of Rivers' option for the Macleay and its presentation to the community.
- ▶ Monitored the inter-agency-driven, rehabilitation of Clybucca Wetlands.
- ▶ Monitored Forestry Corporation NSW 'Native Forest' logging in the Styx River area.